

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 25th June 1881.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	
BENGALI.					
Monthly.					
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Calcutta	2,100	Bysakh, 1288 B.S.	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	175		
Fortnightly.					
3	"Sansodhinī"	Chittagong	600	13th June 1881.	
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....	
Weekly.					
5	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	13th ditto.	
6	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	.....	24th ditto.
7	"Bhārat Bandhu"	Ditto	.....	14th ditto.
8	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	671		
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	13th ditto.	
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Burdwan	296		
11	"Chāruvartā"	Sherepore, Mymensing	.....	19th ditto.
12	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	17th ditto.	
13	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	18th ditto.	
14	"Hālisahar Prakāshikā"	Calcutta	.....	22nd ditto.
15	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	18th ditto.	
16	"Medinī"	Midnapore	.....	17th ditto.
17	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	13th ditto.	
18	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Ditto	.....	
19	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	850	12th ditto.	
20	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet	.....	16th ditto.
21	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	275		
22	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kakiniā, Rungpore	250	19th ditto.	
23	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	500	20th ditto.	
24	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500		
25	"Som Prakāsh"	Changripottā, 24-Perghs.	.....	18th ditto.
26	"Sudhākar"	Mymensing	.....	1st ditto.
27	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	4,000	13th ditto.	
28	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet	440	18th ditto.	
29	"Tripurā Vartāvaha"	Commillah	.....	17th to 23rd June 1881.
30	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Calcutta	700		
31	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	11th to 19th ditto.	
32	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	20th to 24th ditto.	
33	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	16th & 20th to 24th June 1881.	
34	"Prabhāti"	Ditto	.....	
35	"Samāchār Sudhābarsan"	Ditto	.....	16th & 20th to 24th June 1881.
ENGLISH AND URDU.					
Weekly.					
36	"Urdu Guide"	Ditto	365	16th June 1881.	
HINDI.					
Weekly.					
37	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	20th ditto.	
38	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	500		
39	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	200	18th ditto.	
40	"Uchit Baktā"	Ditto	.....	
PERSIAK.					
Weekly.					
41	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	17th ditto.	
URDU.					
Weekly.					
42	"Akhbār-i-Darussaltanat"	Ditto	.....	16th & 20th to 24th June 1881.
ASSAMESE.					
Monthly.					
43	"Assam Vilāsini"	Sibsagar	.....	

POLITICAL.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
June 13th, 1881.

THE *Navavibhakar*, of the 13th June, reproduces with approbation the views expressed by Colonel Osborn in an article in the *London Statesman* on the reform of the native army. The editor asks Government to banish from its mind that distrust of the native troops which has existed since the time of the sepoy mutiny. There will be no improvement of the native army until the rulers cease to make an invidious distinction between the native and the European soldiers in India.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
June 13th, 1881.

2. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 13th June, notices it as significant that, although England has governed Ireland for seven hundred years, the Irish are now as bitterly opposed as ever to English ascendancy. The case has been far different in India, where, in the space of two centuries, the British Government has become the paramount power, and the people have learnt to be loyal to it. One of the greatest defects of British rule is that the older it grows in a country, the less attached to it become the people. This is seen in India. The rulers do not now love the people to the extent they loved them fifty years ago.

UCHIT BAKTA,
June 18th, 1881.

3. The *Uchit Baktá*, of the 18th June, shortly apprehends an outbreak of civil war in Afghanistan. If such an event should really happen, India should be relieved of the necessity of meeting the costs of the military operations; because she has not the least interest in prosecuting a war in Afghanistan.

SOM PRAKASH,
June 20th, 1881.

4. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 20th June, remarks that the Afghan war was evidently fought for the benefit of General Roberts. The war has saddled India with an enormous cost, besides causing the loss of large numbers of men and cattle. The country has not gained anything by it, but has been a loser throughout. General Roberts alone has been a gainer. It has made his reputation and fortune. It has brought him honors, and now it is proposed to grant him a money reward. If, however, he is considered entitled to a reward, the charge should be paid England, and not by India.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

PARIDARSHAK,
June 12th, 1881.

5. The *Paridarshak*, of the 12th June, remarks, in reference to the proposals made by the Chief Commissioner of Assam for the better Government of the Nagas, that they will not be agreeable to these wild tribes. The Nagas do not live in any particular place for a long time, but constantly change their place of residence. This it is which accounts for their indifference to the miserable condition of their villages. Government should, if it really desires to ameliorate the condition of the Nagas, first seek to obtain their good will and confidence by abandoning all schemes of taxation. They are a poor people, and taxes would press heavily upon them.

CHARU VARTA,
June 13th, 1881.

6. Writing on the same subject, the *Charu Vártá*, of the 13th June, observes that the plan of appointing certain selected persons *mundles* for collecting the taxes, has indeed some advantages, but the powers with which these headmen must necessarily be vested would be liable to abuse. Instead of exacting compulsory labour from the Nagas; would it not be better to equitably assess the taxes and pay fair wages for labour supplied? A kind and considerate treatment of these wild tribes is the best means of reconciling them to

British rule. The writer cannot admit the wisdom of the proposal to disarm the Nagas. If it were carried out in practice, they would be delivered over helpless to the tender mercies of the wild beasts which infest the jungles surrounding their villages.

7. The same paper dwells in a long article on the high value which the Hindus attach to the chastity of their females. There is no other offence which produces such marked abhorrence in the mind of a Hindu as the unfaithfulness of a wife to her husband, and the feeling is universal that, if an injured husband takes away the life of his unchaste wife, he is entitled to sympathy. The punishment of such a person with death appears extremely disproportionate to the offence.

CHARU VARTA.

An unfaithful wife, and the husband who takes her life.

8. The same paper refers to the necessity that has arisen of establishing agricultural banks in this country for the benefit of the cultivators of the soil. If loans were made available to them at low rates of interest, they would be enabled to keep clear of indebtedness.

CHARU VARTA.

Agricultural banks.

9. The *Purva Pratidhwani*, of the 13th June, regrets to have to notice that the proceeds of the road cess are not always applied for the purpose of constructing roads in places where they are urgently needed; and that the money raised from the inhabitants of a particular locality, instead of being expended for their benefit, often goes to confer the advantage of road communications on people living elsewhere. The village roads are those that are most neglected. The members of the Road Cess Committees live in perfect ignorance of the requirements of villages in this respect; and are content if only the roads they use are kept in repairs and in good condition. The editor, in conclusion, asks Government to empower the villagers to elect representatives to sit on the Road Cess Committees. The representatives of a particular village should be asked to attend at only those meetings of the committee at which business connected with that village might be under consideration.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI,
June 13th, 1891.

The Road Cess Fund and the Road Cess Committee.

10. The *Srihatta Prakāsh*, of the 13th June, agrees with the *Navavi-bhākar* in holding that the prohibition of preaching in the public squares of Calcutta is an event which is fraught with political meaning.*

SRIHATTA PRAKASH,
June 13th, 1891.

The prohibition of preaching in the squares of Calcutta; its political meaning.

According to the editor, in every act of the British Government, no matter whether it has any connection with religion, occurrences of every-day life, commerce, or any other subject, there is an under current of tortuous policy. The rulers delude themselves with the belief that the people of this country are not intelligent enough to perceive this. As a matter of fact, however, they can see through all the devices of Government; and the time has gone by when it could successfully throw dust in their eyes.

11. The same paper learns with gratification that Government has appointed Babu Loknath Sarmā, the zemindar of Sylhet, an Honorary Magistrate. The Babu has fully earned the honor which has now been bestowed upon him, and deserves some further recognition of his public spirit by Government. The public would be gratified to hear that some suitable title of distinction was conferred upon him.

SRIHATTA PRAKASH.

Babu Loknath Sarmā.

12. The *Navavibhākar*, of the 13th June, observes that one of the means whereby Government can ameliorate the condition of the people of India and develop the resources of the country, consists in carefully fostering manufacturing industries and offering encouragement to trade and commerce.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
June 13th, 1891.

The State railways in India.

* See paragraph 6 of our last report.

The construction of railways with capital raised in this country is a subject to which the attention of native capitalists may be advantageously directed. Major Baring's plan of utilizing private enterprise in this direction is eminently calculated to ensure success. The experience gained by Government, however, in the management of State Railways is far from encouraging. Owing to the employment of European and Eurasian agency on railways in India, the cost of management absorbs almost the whole of the profits. This is objected to, not so much on the common-place ground of the exclusion of natives from the railway service as on the higher ground that the failure of State Railways would have a most discouraging effect upon native capitalists who already manifest the greatest unwillingness to invest money in such works of public utility.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

13. We make the following extracts from an article in the same paper on the Government resolution regarding Dr. Payne's last report on the Lunatic Asylums in Bengal :—A perusal of the report on Lunatic Asylums for 1880, leads to the conclusion that Government is more anxious to secure economy in expenditure than the comforts of the lunatics. This is doubtless part of that policy of economy which ever since he became Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Sir Ashley Eden has practised in jail and hospital expenditure. It is, however, to be noted that Government insists on this policy being carried out in all things in which the public have any interest. The rulers are thus found straining at a gnat but swallowing a camel. Sir Ashley Eden's policy of retrenchment is having a most injurious effect upon the interests of the people. But it is idle to complain; a handful of officials are all-in-all in this country, and what they do, be it beneficial or otherwise, the people are bound to accept.

The Lieutenant-Governor has bestowed much commendation on Dr. Payne for his report. It is not, however, clear how he has deserved it. If all that was required of a good Superintendent of Lunatic Asylums was ability to write a good report and to guide the officers subordinate to him, a somewhat strong-minded clerk might with advantage be appointed to the post which is now held by Dr. Payne. As to the contents of the report, returns of the last five years show that the object of Government is clearly to reduce the number of inmates of the lunatic asylums. The statistics further establish the fact that the mortality is increasing, and the percentage of cures is decreasing among the lunatics. No cause has, however, been assigned for this result. Indeed, the report is sadly defective in those matters, an elucidation of which would require learning and patient research. There was an increase of cases of sickness which are brought about by unwholesome food. This matter, it is to be regretted, has not elicited any remarks. No attempt was made to ascertain the causes or the treatment of the different phases of insanity. It is a fact that in most of the cases of lunacy in this country, the habitual use of intoxicating drugs is one of the most powerful causes of the disease, but in how many lunatic asylums has this matter been ever inquired into? The officers entrusted with their superintendence are content to follow the prescribed routine; and, if they carefully do this, they obtain the approval of their superiors. Thus Dr. Payne has come in for a large share of praise, because he has followed the rigorously economical policy of the Lieutenant-Governor; whereas if his work were rightly judged, it would be found that either he was incompetent or that he had neglected his duty. The increase in the number of the criminal, and the corresponding decrease in that of ordinary, lunatics warrant the assumption that Government desire to maintain asylums for the benefit of the former kind of patients alone. In conclusion, the editor dwells on the necessity of extending a considerate and

generous treatment to lunatics. The example of Dr. Simpson of Dacca may well be followed in this respect. He treated the unfortunate men under his charge like his children.

14. The same paper directs the attention of Government to the necessity that has now arisen of exercising some sort of control over the sale of patent medicines in this country. The number of such medicines, and "infallible cures" has of late considerably increased. Most of those who advertise and vend these specifics are veritable quacks who do not possess the least knowledge of medicine. Would it not be better to require these men to subject their medicines to chemical analysis, and, if found innocuous, to have them registered after the payment of a fee? If this plan were adopted, Government would be enabled to some extent to increase its revenue, while the public would be saved from imposture.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
June 13th, 1881.

15. The same paper condemns the orders of the Secretary of State to reduce the salaries of the Judges of the High Court. The prestige of the High Court, and the confidence which the people repose in it would be seriously impaired if effect were given to Lord Hartington's instructions. No really able lawyer would consent to accept a Judgeship on the reduced salary, and the only effect would be the appointment of persons of mediocre abilities and not possessed of much independence. The number of Judges might be reduced if it were possible to do so without injuring the interests of the public, but the reduction of their salaries will interfere with the efficiency of the Court. The proposal to allow a lower salary to the Native Judges is essentially an inequitable one, and lays Lord Hartington open to the charge of fostering a distinction of color. What, again, would be the amount of savings effected if the proposal were carried out? The writer is disappointed to find that Lord Hartington has not repealed any one of the unpopular measures of Lord Lytton's administration, but appears on the contrary bent upon following the late Viceroy's policy. He does not seem to know much of India, while it is to be doubted whether he is really as staunch a Liberal as he professes to be.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

16. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 13th June, sarcastically refers to the devotion of the *Hindu Patriot* newspaper to Sir Ashley Eden, whom it praises in season and out of season. Sir Ashley, however, is cruel to the *Patriot*.

ANANDA BASAR
PATRIKA,
June 14th, 1881.

17. The same paper condemns Sir Ashley Eden for his indifference to the oppressions committed on the ryots of the Midnapore district by Watson & Co.

ANANDA BASAR
PATRIKA.

18. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 14th June, observes that there is no reason at the present time, when the railway and the telegraph have shortened distance, why there should be a Governor in Madras. The work of administration might well and at a less cost be conducted by a Lieutenant-Governor.

BHARAT MIHIR,
June 14th, 1881.

19. The *Rungpore Dik Prakāsh*, of the 16th June, concurs in the justice of Sir Ashley Eden's decision in the matter of the Calcutta Wards' Institution. The Wards did not in the least benefit by the instruction they received therein. The new arrangement will, it is believed, prove beneficial.

RUNGPORE DIK
PRAKASH,
June 16th, 1881.

20. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 17th June, asks, in reference to the lack of drinking-water in a large number of villages on the Noulkelly river now almost dried up in sub-division Satkhira, that Government should direct the excavation of its silted-up channel.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
June 17th, 1881.

MEDINI,
June 18th, 1881.

21. The *Medini*, of the 18th June, is almost wholly taken up with the disputes between R. Watson & Co.'s servants and the ryots of the Bagri pergunnah, and the part taken by Mr. Price, the Collector, in reference thereto. The editor notices with gratification that Mr. Badcock has sent up the case of Lakshman Diyasi adverted to in our last Report to the Sessions.

HALISAHAR
PRAKASHIKA,
June 18th, 1881.

22. The *Halisahar Prakáshiká*, of the 18th June, while recognizing the necessity of reducing the salaries of the Judges of the High Court, objects to the distinction which is proposed to be made between the Barrister Judges on the one hand and the Civilian and Native Judges on the other. If a reduction of salary in the case of Judges is found necessary, all should equally be affected by the measure. There is nothing to show that really able men will not consent to accept a Judgeship on Rs. 3,600 a month, considering that Mr. Straight, of the Allahabad High Court, who had in England extensive practice as a lawyer, came out to India on that salary. The rate of Rs. 2,400, however, for Native Judges is not adequate, and will not, it is to be feared, induce able men to come forward as candidates for a Judgeship. It therefore behoves Lord Hartington to reconsider this point. The editor, in conclusion, urges a reduction of salaries all round.

TRIPURA VARTAVAHA,
June 18th, 1881.

23. The *Tripura Vártávaha*, of the 18th June, contains a long article on the hardship to which Basarat Ali Chowdhuri, a zemindar of Pachimgong, in station Laksham, in the district of Tipperah, is subjected at the hands of the Court of Wards, under whose management his estates were placed in consequence of his having been declared to be of unsound mind. In spite of his strong desire to marry (he has been a widower for the last 11 years), he is not permitted to marry. The education of his son is being neglected, while the profits of the estate are being wasted on horses, carriages, and other articles which are not used by him at all. The pay of the manager is unreasonably high.

SAR SUDHANIDHI,
June 20th, 1881.

24. The *Sár Sudhánidhi*, of the 20th June, remarks, in reference to the notification of the Bank of Bengal that it will be closed during the Durga Puja holidays only on the days the Custom House is closed, that the effect of this will be that the holidays will be curtailed in all mercantile offices, and that consequently great inconvenience and hardship will be caused to the Hindu employés. The Directors are asked to reconsider the matter.

SOM PRAKASH,
June 20th, 1881.

25. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 20th June, regrets to have to notice that in spite of the clear orders of the Lieutenant-Governor to the contrary, local authorities have not yet done anything to remove the obstructions to drainage which exist in many towns and villages in Bengal. As suggestions for improving the sanitary condition of Bengal, the following points are mentioned:—In all localities through which a railway line has passed, particular attention should be paid to the drainage. The railway cuttings should either be filled up, or so enlarged that they might become good tanks. Either from the Municipal or the Road Cess Funds, the roads, tanks and unoccupied lands in villages should be kept clean and in good condition.

SOM PRAKASH.

26. The same paper believes that the decision of the Government of India regarding the purchase for public use of articles of native manufacture in the local market will prove exceedingly beneficial; and the editor exhorts the native public to avail itself of the opportunity thus offered it of fostering manufacturing industries in this country.

Purchase of Government stores.

EDUCATION.

PARIDARSHAK,
June 12th, 1881.

27. We make the following extracts from an article in the *Paridarshak* of the 12th June :—A burning fire will not long remain concealed under one's clothes.

The Sibpore Engineering College.

What efforts were not so long made to suppress the truth, but it is not easy to throw dust in the eyes of a whole people! Mr. Croft at length found that a blind advocacy of Mr. Fouracres' cause was becoming increasingly difficult. Sir Ashley Eden, indeed, was his friend, but would it behove His Honor, in utter disregard of his own reputation, to support the action of the Director? Certainly not! Sir Ashley perceived the injustice of the Director's action, and also found that it was condemned by the whole native public. His Honor thereupon, so it is believed, addressed a demi-official note to Mr. Croft, which has resulted in the latter's leaving Darjeeling for Calcutta for the purpose of making a local investigation. The writer concludes by remarking that, by showing rudeness to the students under his charge, Mr. Fouracres has evinced his utter unfitness for the post he now holds in the Education Department.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 25th June 1881.

